

## Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### Listing of Claims

1) (Currently amended): An interlocking nut assembly to secure a bolt comprising a first nut having a first end and an oppositely disposed second end, said first nut having internal threads therein adjacent its said first end and having a blind bore within female threads ~~provided~~ therein adjacent its said second end, and a second ~~bolt~~ nut having a first end and an oppositely disposed second end, said second nut having a blind bore therein adjacent its said first end and having internal threads therein and adjacent its said second end, said second nut having a longitudinally extending flange portion with male threads ~~therein~~ thereon adjacent said first end of said second nut, said internal threads in said first nut and in said second nut having a first number of threads per inch substantially corresponding to the number of threads per inch provided on the bolt to be secured, said female threads in said blind bore in said first nut and said male threads ~~in~~ on said longitudinally extending flange portion on said second nut having a second number of threads per inch, said second number of threads per inch differing from said first number of threads per inch.

2) (Currently amended): The interlocking nut assembly as defined in claim 1 wherein said blind bore in said first nut and said longitudinally extending flange portion on said second nut are concentrically aligned permitting said male threads ~~in~~ on

said longitudinally extending portion on said second nut to threadingly engage said female threads in said blind bore in said first nut.

3) (Currently amended): The interlocking nut assembly as defined in claim 1 wherein said second number of threads per inch for said female threads in said blind bore in said first nut and for said male threads on said longitudinally extending flange portion on ~~in~~ said second nut are less than said first number of threads per inch for said internal threads in said first and second nuts.

4) (Currently amended): The interlocking nut assembly as defined in claim 1 wherein said second number of threads per inch for said female threads in said blind bore in said first nut and for said male threads on said longitudinally extending flange portion on ~~in~~ said second nut are greater than said first number of threads per inch for said internal threads in said first and second nuts.